

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached is an annotated sheet which illustrates the change between the originally-filed Figure 4 and the Replacement Sheet attached to the filed November 17, 2006 (entered when the RCE was filed on January 11, 2007). The annotated sheet clearly shows that the column "Division Pattern" is changed to "Labeling Pattern" in Figure 4 to be consistent with the specification.

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet - Figures 3-4

Annotated Sheet - marked-up Figures 3-4

Remarks

The Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Examiner's Office Action dated April 18, 2007. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12 and 19-21 are amended and an annotated Figure 4 is submitted to illustrate the change to the originally-filed Figure 4. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-17 and 19-21 are pending in the present application.

The drawings were objected to because a marked-up copy of the original drawing sheet that was replaced was not included with the Replacement Sheet of Figures 3-4. As stated in the Remarks of the Amendment filed November 18, 2006, the middle column in Figure 4 is correctly identified as "Labeling Pattern" consistent with the disclosure at page 8, lines 2-6 of the originally-filed specification. Accordingly, acceptance of the drawings is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 8-10 of the Action. The foregoing Amendments to the claims address the issues raised by the Examiner deleting the objectionable terminology. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18 and 19-21 are fully definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the apparatus claims failed to recite a computer readable medium. The foregoing amendments to independent claims 1 and 20 add a computer readable medium so that the claims recite more than a computer program.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, as stated in paragraph 14 of the Action. Claim 19 has been amended to recite a computer readable medium. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-4, 6-11 and 19-20 are statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101 and withdrawal of that rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0025288 to Yanase et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Yanase”) for the reasons set forth in the paragraph 16 spanning pages 5-11 of the Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

a. Claims 1, 8, 12 and 19

Independent claim 1 recites a computer readable medium comprising four elements: 1) division pattern storing means for storing therein one or plural division patterns defining a predetermined character string which can be represented in a division line; 2) document dividing means for applying the one or plural division patterns stored in the division pattern storing means to the inputted electronic document to divide the electronic document into plural partial documents (document dividing step of claim 12); 3) labeling pattern storing means for storing therein plural labeling patterns provided with classification information pieces where said classification information pieces define a predetermined character string which specifies classification of a respective partial document; and 4) labeling means for applying the labeling patterns stored in the labeling pattern storing means to the respective partial documents obtained by the division conducted by the document dividing means, respectively, to provide the classification

information pieces to the respective partial documents (labeling step of claim 12).

Yanese discloses a document format analysis based on predetermined rules. In particular, paragraph [0080] of Yanese states:

- (1) A line with a specific character, such as “ ... ”, “ _ _ _ ” etc. consecutively appears shall be regarded as a separator for separating articles from each other or separating the title of an article from the text of an article.

That is, Yanese analyzes an input document in step S2 as shown in Figures 4 and 5 of Yanese where the document inputted is shown in Figure 7 and the resultant formatted document is shown in Figure 8 of Yanese. The same line of characters “.....” are used to indicate separation of different articles or separation between an article title and the text of the article in Yanese. It is the Examiner’s position that Figures 7-8 and paragraph [0084] of Yanese also disclose the recited “document dividing means”. However, Yanese simply discloses analyzing the inputted text where the title and text of the inputted text are paired as one block to extracted as an article. Thus, a full document (text and title) of an inputted electronic document is extracted or divided according to Yanese, not a division of the inputted electronic document into “plural partial documents” as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner uses the same paragraphs and Figures of Yanese for its alleged disclosure of the recited “labeling patterns”. It is unclear if the alleged “labeling patterns” of Yanese refers to the line of characters that indicate the separation of text and title of articles. If so, the alleged “division pattern” cannot be the recited “plural label patterns” of independent claim 1. But, if the alleged “character string” is the data structure of article information stored in an article information storage unit (Figure 6 of Yanese), it is respectfully submitted that the descriptive words are not a predetermined

character string, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the present application. It is further unclear how the Article ID of Figure 6 in Yanese is employed to label the electronic information in Figure 10 as Yanese is silent in this regards.

Moreover, Yanese fails to disclose the claimed “labeling means” where stored labeling patterns are applied to “respective partial documents obtained by the division conducted by the document dividing means to provide the classification information pieces (from the labeling pattern storing means) to the respective partial documents.” That is, there is no disclosure in Yanese of freely establishing various division patterns and labeling patterns on an inputted electronic document. Thus, Yanese fails to disclose either explicitly or inherently an inputted electronic document with change of division patterns that do not follow the data structure (Figure 6 of Yanese) to enable application of various label patterns separate from the data structure and the position in the inputted document. Consequently, Yanese cannot anticipate the claimed invention because it fails to disclose at least 2) and 4) of the elements in independent claims 1 and 12. Dependent claims 4, 8, 13 and 19 are allowable at least for the reasons given above. Accordingly, claims 1, 8, 12 and 19 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Yanese. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

b. Claims 2 and 6

Dependent claim 2 recites that the division pattern storing means stores plural division patterns for an electronic document of one kind. Dependent claim 6 recites that the labeling pattern storing means stores plural labeling patterns for an electronic document of one kind. The Examiner again indicates that paragraph [0084] of Yanese discloses both “plural division patterns” and recited “plural labeling patterns”. However,

Yanese does not disclose that the alleged patterns or labeling patterns described in paragraph [0084] are provided for a document of one kind. The recited patterns of claims 2 and 6 are provided for a document of one kind, which enables patterns to be tailored for specific kind of document and this feature is not taught or suggested by Yanese. Accordingly, claims 2 and 6 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Yanese both for the reasons above with respect to independent claim 1 and the features recited in each claim. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

c. Claims 10 and 16

Claims 10 and 16 respectfully recite a division pattern producing means and a division pattern producing step wherein the means or step recognizes existence of plural lines including similar character strings in similar positions in the electronic document inputted to produce the division pattern and register the same in the division pattern storing means. There is no disclosure in Yanese of a division pattern producing means or step wherein the means or step recognizes the existence of a character string in an inputted electronic document and produces a division pattern and registers the same in the division pattern storing means.

To the contrary, Yanese discloses in paragraphs [0079] - [0084], a document format analysis based on **predetermined** rules. That is, Yanese does not produce additional division patterns by reviewing inputted documents for character strings and does not register the produced division pattern [in a division pattern storing means], as required in dependent claims 10 and 16. Consequently, Yanese cannot anticipate claims 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

a. Claims 3 and 7

Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanase for the reasons set forth in paragraph 18, spanning pages 11-12 of the Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 recites that the “division pattern storing means stores a division pattern which is applied regardless of the kind of an electronic document.” Claim 7 recites that the labeling pattern storing means stores a labeling pattern which is applied regardless of the kind of an electronic document. The document format analysis described in paragraph [0084] of Yanase is to divide the document into title and body of articles according to the predetermined rules disclosed in paragraphs [0079] to [0084]. The document format analysis of Yanase does not mention different types of electronic documents. While paragraph [0076] of Yanase mentions extracting article information from printed matter, Yanase discloses that photographs or drawings (different types of electronic documents) must be removed before the text can be extracted. This suggests that Yanase is capable of dealing with one type of printed matter. Consequently, claims 3 and 7 are believed to be patentable over Yanase. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

b. Claims 9, 11, 15, 17, 20 and 21

Claims 9, 11, 15, 17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanase in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0007397 to Kobayashi et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Kobayashi”) for the reasons set forth in paragraph 19, spanning pages 13-15 of the Action. This rejection is

respectfully traversed.

On page 13 of the Action, it is the Examiner's position that Yanese discloses a "method that is able to determine the inputted document is either electronic mail or printed mail, (Paragraph 0063, lines 7-11) ...". However, this is not what is disclosed by Yanese. Yanese describes the following at the referenced paragraph and line numbers:

In this case, not only news information distributed via a network 12, for example, like electronic mail, but news information obtained, for example, from a magazine, etc., can also be provided to the news information presenting device 10.

While Yanese mentions obtaining new information from two different sources, there is no disclosure of the recited "discrimination pattern storing means for storing therein discrimination patterns for discriminating the kind of electronic document inputted;" and "document kind discriminating means for referencing to the discrimination patterns stored in the discrimination pattern storing means to discriminate the kind of inputted electronic document." Thus, Yanese is missing more that the recited document kind discriminating means (claims 9 and 20) or step (claims 15 and 21), as acknowledged by the Examiner.

While Kobayashi may disclose a method that is able to determine if the text data is in the HTML format, XML format or an e-mail message, this is not the claimed invention. The claimed invention has a specific feature of a managing means (document kind discriminating means) that enables the claimed invention to establish patterns flexibly, which is not disclosed by Kobayashi.

Conclusion

Since neither Yanase nor Kobayashi disclose the table (Figures 2-4 of the present application) that shows the discrimination pattern, division pattern or labeling pattern

associated with a particular document kind, as required by the claimed invention, neither Yanese nor Kobayashi either alone or together can render the claimed invention unpatentable. The managing feature of the document kind discriminating means, or the tables for the division patterns and/or labeling enable the present invention to handle more complicated electronic documents, such as mail magazines and not just news information as taught by Yanese. See page 2, lines 11-22 and page 11, lines 17-20 of the present application.

For the above stated reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this application be passed to issuance with claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-17 and 19-21.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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CMV/elw
::ODMA\PCDOCS\DC2DOCS1\872781\1



FIG.3

DOCUMENT KIND	DIVISION PATTERN
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 1	^====.*
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 1	^____.*
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 2*
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 2	^=--.*

FIG.4

LABELING

DOCUMENT KIND	DIVISION PATTERN	LABEL
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 1	^●.*	ARTICLE BODY
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 1	---PR-	ADVERTISEMENT
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 1	ID=000.*	TITLE
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 1	^Copyright.*	NOTATION
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 2	^◆.*	ARTICLE BODY
BUSINESS MAIL MAGAZINE 2	^©.*	NOTATION